

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 IGA-02 OMB-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 SY-05

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O R 221158Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7454

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR MAPS ET SO

SUBJ: FURTHER INFO ON SOMALI-GALLA MILITARY ACTION

IN OGADEN

REF: (A) ADDIS 14678 DTG 191426Z DEC 75; (B) ADDIS 14695

DTG 201734Z DEC 75; (C) USDAO 0827 OF 210611ZDEC 75

1. FIRST AND SECOND-HAND DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTICIPANTS
IN CRS/UNICEF CONVOY, WHICH WAS ATTACKED BY UNIDENTIFIED
ASSAILANTS IN THE MORNING OF DEC 20, HAS NOW BECOME
AVAILABLE TO US AND GENERALLY CORROBORATES REFS (B) AND
(C).

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2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, TWO ETHIOPIANS WERE WOUNDED IN THE LEG AND ONE BRITISH NURSE WAS INJURED IN BOTH EYES. NURSE WAS EVACUATED DEC 21 TO ENGLAND. A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 50 ATTACKED THE FIVE VEHICLE CONVOY FROM THE FRONT AND BOTH SIDES. THE ATTACKERS WERE TRAVELING BY CAMEL. REPORTEDLY, THE ATTACKERS WERE WELL ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, MACHINE GUNS ON TRIPODS, BAZOOKAS AND "ANTI-AIRCRAFT ROCKETS." THE ATTACKERS WORE UNIFORMS WITH NO INSIGNIA AND WERE WELL DISCIPLINED.

3. AFTER THE CONVOY HAD BEEN STOPPED, THE ATTACKERS STRIPPED THE VEHICLES OF ALL USEFUL EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY RADIOS, AND TOOK ALL VALUABLE ITEMS (WATCHES, MONEY, ETC.) FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE CONVOY. SEVERAL ETHIOPIANS WERE THEN STRIPPED TO THEIR UNDERWEAR. THE EUROPEANS, HOWEVER, WERE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEIR CLOTHING.

4. THE LEADER OF THE ATTACKING GROUP WAS WELL-DRESSED IN A BUSH OUTFIT AND SPOKE SOMALI WITH THE CRS/UNICEF INTERPRETERS. SOME THE ATTACKERS ALSO SPOKE A TYPE OF GALLYNYA NOT USUALLY HEARD IN ETHIOPIA. THE LEADER STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE GROUP WAS LOOKING FOR AMERICANS AND AMHARAS. HE SAID THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONVOY WERE LUCK THAT THEY WERE NEITHER OR THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED. HE ALSO TREATED THE GROUP TO A POLITICAL LECTURE, STATING THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE SOMALIS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE LAND THAT HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM THEM BY THE ETHIOPIANS.

5. AFTER SEARCHING THE CONVOY WELL AND REMOVING ANYTHING OF VALUE, THE BAND LEADER APOLOGIZED FOR THE ATTACK AND GAVE THE CONVOY BACK TWO 5-GALLON GAS CANS WHICH ENABLED THEM TO PROCEED TO GORO.

COMMENT: EMB IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXPLICITLY STATEMENT TARGETING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND IS NOW NOTIFYING AMERICAN MISSIONARY GROUPS HAVING OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST OGADEN TO HAVE THEM PUT THEIR PEOPLE ON THE ALERT.
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HUMMEL

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06 JUL 2006

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